

Chapter Five – Consultation and Coordination

Agencies, Organizations, and Persons Consulted

Governmental Agencies

Charles County
Chesapeake Bay Program

Interest Groups

The Conservation Fund
Chesapeake Bay Foundation
The Nature Conservancy
The Conservancy of Charles County
Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition
The Wilderness Society

List of Preparers

An interdisciplinary team of resource specialists from the State of Maryland and Bureau of Land Management prepared the draft plan:

H. Singh Ahuja, BLM-MFO, Physical Scientist

Bryce Barlan, BLM-MFO, GIS Intern

Diane Chasse, Conservation Easement Planner, MD Environmental Trust

Jim Engstrom, BLM-MFO, Geographic information systems

Danny Estevez, MD DNR, Wildlife & Heritage Service

Troy Ferone, BLM-MFO, Cultural resources

David Gailey, MD DNR, Forest Service

Barbara Grey, MD DNR Resource Planning, Chief, Southern Region/Public Lands

Neal Herrick, MD DNR, Deputy Regional Manager, Southern Region, State Forest and Park Service

Pete Jayne, MD DNR, Wildlife & Heritage Service

Sylvia Jordan, BLM-MFO, Wildlife, Recreation

Bryan D. King, MD DNR, Wildlife & Heritage Service

Susan Langley, State Underwater Archaeologist, MD Historical Trust/DHCD

Howard Levine, BLM-MFO, Planning Team Lead

Jean Lippard, MD DNR, Southern Region Administrator, Program Open Space

Katherine McCarthy, MD DNR, Wildlife & Heritage Service, Natural Heritage Program

Mary Owens, Chesapeake Bay Critical Area Commission, Chief of Program Implementation

Gary Shaffer, MD Historical Trust Preservation Officer/Archaeologist

Marcia Sieckman, Realty Specialist, BLM-MFO

Mark Spencer, AICP, MD DNR Deputy Director, Resource Planning

Public Involvement

Before the planning process began, BLM hosted a collaboration workshop as a way to introduce the agency to the citizens of Southern Maryland. The workshop was held in Waldorf in April 2001.

Scoping

The scoping process was initiated by publishing in the Federal Register a Notice of Intent (NOI) to Prepare the Lower Potomac River Coordinated Management Plan and public notices in the Maryland *Independent* and Washington *Post* (Southern Maryland edition). BLM also provided a short article for publication in the Nanjemoy-Potomac Environmental Coalition newsletter. Staff from BLM, DNR and Charles County attended local forums in Nanjemoy throughout 2001 and early 2002 to answer questions and provide status updates.

The two public scoping workshops were designed and hosted by BLM, DNR and Charles County with the assistance of a private contractor. Agency staff also coordinated their public participation efforts with the Nanjemoy Community Vision Committee of Nanjemoy, Maryland. The Nanjemoy Vision Committee published the workshop notice on its web page, and sent the notice to approximately 70 local residents who were on its list server. The notice was also placed in the Washington *Post* (Southern Maryland Edition), and notices were sent to: the Charles County Delegation, the Administrator of the Commissioners of Charles County, the Charles County Parks Department, the Charles County Department of Tourism and the participants and organizational representatives (recreational, environmental, local businesses, mining and local residents) who attended the collaborative workshop in April, 2001.

The program was designed to give the public a range of input opportunities, including:

- X Two official public workshops in Charles County (March 2002 in Nanjemoy and La Plata);
- X A newsletter provided to all participants at the workshops describing the project; and
- X A written comment period, which was extended once as requested by interested parties.

A nontraditional forum for soliciting input was used to focus the workshops. Individuals and representatives of interest groups met in small-groups discussions to facilitate in-depth dialogue about the issues and to solicit other concerns, and opportunities for management. All issues and concerns and opportunities expressed during the breakout sessions were recorded.

Public Workshops

The public workshops were held during consecutive weekday evenings at easily accessible locations, with ample parking, that provided comfortable space for many people. At each meeting, Tom Roland, Chief of Parks and Grounds from Charles County, welcomed the public, and provided some background to the project from the County=s perspective as a partner. Mr. Roland was followed by Mark Spencer of DNR=s Resource Planning Division, who described the acquisition and planning project. Following his presentation, Howard Levine, BLM planning team leader, described the BLM planning process. All three then answered questions from the public. Sherwood Shankland, serving as the workshop facilitator, described the meeting format and agenda. At both workshops, Ms. Kathy McClure, from the Nanjemoy Visioning Committee provided a brief overview of the community=s visioning process and preliminary findings.

Following the presentations, the public divided into small groups, each with a facilitator from BLM or DNR. The groups= tasks were to develop a set of issue statements and a list of opportunities for public land management. The groups wrote these statements on sheets of paper which were put on a large adhesive board. Mr. Shankland then facilitated a group discussion on how to group and prioritize the statements, the results of which are found in section 3.

The innovative meeting format proved to be particularly successful in gathering key management ideas early in the planning process. Participants were supportive of the approach, and several participants expressed the view that the meeting format was an improved method of public involvement, especially appropriate for a planning process. Overall, approximately 100 people attended the public workshops.